

THE COLORED LAWYERS.

The great ability of the colored lawyers has never been demonstrated better than during the first two weeks of the present term of Criminal Court Number 1. During the period mentioned, one person was released on probation and five were acquitted after trial by a jury, and the most striking part of it all is the fact that all except one of these defendants were represented by colored lawyers.

Attorney Harry L. Tignor carried off the honors of the term by securing the release of the first two. Vera Dickson, charged with forgery, entered a plea of guilty, and, on motion of her attorney, was placed on probation on Friday, October 9, 1914. On the following Monday, Janie Baker, charged with an assault with a dangerous weapon, was tried for the offence. After a trial lasting half a day, the jury returned a verdict of not guilty, and the girl was discharged.

On the same day, William Jones, charged with depredation on private property, was acquitted. A few days later, Clarence Boone, indicted for an assault with a dangerous weapon, was called upon to answer that charge. After a strenuous fight, he, too, was found not guilty. Both of these defendants were represented by ex-Judge E. Mr. Hewlett, one of the ablest members of the District bar.

The next day Wade Fairfax, also charged with an assault with a dangerous weapon, was called for trial. R. C. L. Moncure, a white lawyer, appeared for him and secured an acquittal. Thus far, Fairfax is the only person with a white attorney who has been released.

The latest verdict favorable to the defendant was returned on Monday last in the case of Benjamin Campbell, charged with shooting one William Hawkins with an automatic revolver. The trial lasted all day, and the jury retired at four o'clock in the afternoon. After staying out for one solid hour, they returned with a verdict of acquittal. Attorney Fountain Peyton conducted the trial.

And thus we get an idea of the type of the men who are doing the legal work of the community.

Regardless of the fact that the colored members of the bar are the objects of unjust criticism by those who do not know, and regardless of the fact that they all suffer for the shortcomings of one or two, it is an undisputed fact that the proportion of incompetent men is comparatively small. There is no doubt that the whole community is safe as long as we have good and learned men to whom we can entrust our life, our liberty, and our property.

Following the admission of Lawyer L. H. Howell and a group of colored lawyers to the bar of the Court of Appeals, says an item in motion of the famous Mrs. Selva, a candidate for the presidency of the United States, the trio were photographed in a group by Artist A. Scurlock. The picture will be a unique contribution to the history of these times.

New York Eve. Journal

November 1914 Negro Lawyer Accused.

Newark, Nov. 3.—Vice Chancellor Howell yesterday heard testimony in an action against Alfred R. Coxe, a negro lawyer, to show cause why he should not be disbarred. He is charged with extortion, but has entered a general denial. The complainants against him are Alfred Coxe and Mrs. Besse N. Coxe, of No. 88 Sterling avenue, Orange, for whom he acted as attorney in realty matters.

NEGRO PUTS WHITE MAN BEFORE SUPREME COURT

Washington, October 28.—(Special.) For the first time in the history of the supreme court a negro introduced a white man as qualified to practice before that court.

Emil J. Anderson, of Youngstown, Ohio, was the applicant for admission to the bar of the supreme court, and William R. Stewart, a negro of the same place, was his sponsor.

Court officials said they had never known before of a white man to ask a negro to present him to the court.

Several Mississippi lawyers, who were introduced immediately afterward, were highly indignant at the action of the Ohio attorney.

(By R. W. Thompson.)

Bureau of The Freeman, 1337 Wallach Place, N. W., Washington, D. C.

WASHINGTON, D. C., Nov. 4.—Last Friday the United States Supreme Court witnessed the unprecedented sight of a white lawyer being admitted to practice at its bar on the motion of a colored lawyer, already entitled to that distinction. The colored lawyer who, for the first time in the history of the court acted as sponsor for a barrister of the white race, was Mr. William R. Stewart, of Youngstown, Ohio, who came here to try a case appealed from the state courts of Ohio. His associate counsel

was a prominent white lawyer of Youngstown. Mr. Stewart secured admission to the bar of the Supreme Court through an attorney of his acquaintance. When it came the turn of the white lawyer to plead, Mr. Stewart being qualified to act, promptly made the motion in due form that his colleague be admitted to practice before the nation's highest tribunal. Mr. Stewart is rated as one of the best posted barristers in the State of Ohio, which is noted the country over for its admirably equipped disciples of Blackstone. His name will now go down into history as one who has added a remarkable item for the archives of the Supreme Court of the greatest nation under the sun.

Boston Advertiser

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BLACK LAWYERS AND WHITE.

The American Bar Association exists for the advancement of the interests of the profession of law. Its purpose is to establish a uniform and high standard of legal ethics, to encourage the making of equitable laws and to expedite justice in the courts. The American Bar Association does not exist for the advancement of the interests of male white lawyers. The American Bar Association is not a club. Many negroes have become lawyers within the past few years. They have taken care of the legal interests of the members of their race. In the words of the man in the street, they have "made good." A large number of women have lately entered the legal profession. They, too, have made a place for themselves.

The interests of the negro lawyers and of the women lawyers are the same as the interests of the male white lawyers. The welfare of each of these groups requires that the others shall have the same standards of legal ethics as it has. The desire for just laws and expeditious court procedure are common to all. It is good that the American Bar Association condemns the race hatred and the sex prejudice of a group of Southern "Colonels," and insists on a rule, the practical effect of which is to bar neither negroes nor women from membership.

Philadelphia, Pa

Bulletin

5 November 1914 COLORED JURIST VISITS HERE

Judge Terrell, of Washington, D. C., Sees Proceedings in Municipal and Criminal Courts

Judge Robert H. Terrell, of Washington, D. C., the only colored jurist in the United States, was a visitor in the local courts to-day, being introduced by G.

Edward Dickerson, the negro attorney. Judge Terrell saw the proceedings in the Domestic Relations Court, conducted by President Judge Brown, of the Municipal Court, and also some criminal cases before Judge Barratt.

Judge Terrell was appointed a civil justice of the District of Columbia by President Roosevelt in 1902. He was reappointed by the same President in 1906. In February, 1909, when the Municipal Court of the District of Columbia was created, he was made one of its six judges. In 1910 he was reappointed by President Taft, and again by President Wilson, after a long fight in the Senate. Judge Terrell graduated from Harvard in 1884. He has been a teacher, a bureau chief in the United States Treasury, a lawyer and a Judge. For many years he was a member of the Washington Board of Trade, and also served as Grand Master of the Colored Masons of the District of Columbia.